



# City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

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## Cherrybell Post Office To Not Close In February 2013



We have received some good news from our federal lobbyists about the Cherrybell Post Office.

Thanks to the advocacy and the outspokenness of Congressman Barber, Congressman Grijalva, Tucson's Mayor and Council, and our federal lobbyists, the business community and concerned citizens, the Postal Service has pushed the date back to May 2014 instead of February 2013.

Throughout the past year, the Postal Service on several different occasions, have made several pronouncements about the future of Tucson and Southern Arizona's Post Office and Processing Center and what services and mailing rates for businesses would be offered.

In their most recent announcement, our lobbyist reports that the Postal Service stated that they will begin consolidation efforts early next year and questions remain about the bulk mail discount that people and businesses would get using the Cherrybell Processing Center.

What the announcement by the Postal Service for Cherrybell means that our efforts continue on the federal level, to keep Tucson and Southern Arizona's postal processing center open for the 1.8 million citizens and 23,197 businesses it serves.

In the current session of the 112th Congress, as previously written, the Senate passed postal reform legislation earlier this year, but the House must vote on their version of the bill for a compromise to be brokered and sent to the President. The financial crisis facing the Postal Service increases the urgency for Congress to act, but as of yet, the House has not scheduled consideration of the Postal Reform bill. If action is not taken by the 112th Congress, the new Congress takes their oath in January of 2013. New bills dealing with the Post Office situation can be introduced and the May 2014 date for the Cherrybell Post Office gives more time for federal legislative action on the postal system and for Cherrybell.

This is a victory in this long battle which has not reached its conclusion.

## Third Phase of Detention Basin Project Dedicated

The dedication of the Arroyo Chico Detention Basin Project took place on Friday, November 2. This was the third phase of an effort which started with the construction of the Randolph South Detention Basins in 1996 and the Cherry Field Detention Basins in 2008. The City of Tucson, Pima County Regional Flood Control District, Tucson Unified School District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Los Angeles District worked to complete these three projects in part to help the neighborhoods in these respective areas deal with flooding issues that had occurred previously, resulting in flood damage to some houses while forcing most homeowners to purchase expensive flood insurance for being in a flood plain.

Ward 5 Councilmember Richard Fimbres expressed his appreciation for the work and effort on these projects by the governmental entities. He is glad the Arroyo Chico Detention Basin Project is done and hopes it meets its goals of helping with the rainwater and alleviates potential flooding problems that averaged more than \$3.0-million a year. Fimbres went on to express his appreciation of City staff involved with the project and for those neighbors and neighborhoods who have worked on these projects and took part in the City of Tucson Citizen Advisory Committee's which had been set up, so that those most affected would have a voice over these projects. The first being the Park Avenue Detention Basin for which in 1998, came up with the 18 points approved by the Tucson Mayor and Council in 1998.

"Thanks to these neighborhoods, from Broadmoor to Barrio San Antonio, Miles to Barrio Anita and El Presidio to Dunbar, other voices had been a part of this process, from the initial discussions by the City of Tucson Mayor and Council in the early 1990's, through its completion," Councilmember Fimbres said. "Sometimes there were delays, but it was the neighbors and neighborhood associations, through their activism and their participation on advisory committees that kept the projects intentions focused, something I salute them all for is their commitment and for speaking out when needed."

Councilmember Fimbres went on to acknowledge his predecessor in the office, Steve Leal and his staff, for their work on the Arroyo Chico Detention Basin Project, as well as for the second phase – the Cherry Field Detention Basin. "Councilmember Leal and his staff, including Mary Fimbres and Abe Marques are to be commended for their commitment to bettering the neighborhoods and businesses in the area with the efforts for Arroyo Chico and for the Cherry Fields Detention Basins."

Fimbres also thanked Pima County and the Army Corps of Engineers for their work and the federal government for providing funding for the Arroyo Chico Detention Basin, as well as for the Randolph South and Cherry Field Detention Basin Projects.



## Ward 5 News & Notes



I hosted my quarterly business forum on Thursday, November 15th at the El Pueblo Senior Center. This business forum served as an excellent opportunity for businesses and the community to receive updates about business activity in Ward 5.

The forum included guest speakers Captain Ramon Batista of the Tucson Police Department, and Debbie Chandler and Chris Kaselemis from the City of Tucson's Economic Development Office.

A special presentation was also provided by Bob Morken Jr. of Terramar Properties.

A special thank you to Los Jarritos and the DoubleTree who provided refreshments and food for the event.

## Statement From Councilmember Richard Fimbres On Situation With Suspicious Package Found



On November 29, the Tucson Police Department (TPD) informed the Council office that there was a suspicious package in one of the recycling bins located in the parking lot, outside of the Ward 5 office.

TPD and the Tucson Fire Department (TFD) went to the area and determined the gravity of the situation, taking the necessary action, securing and cordoning off the area until a further investigation could be conducted. The FBI and Homeland Security were also involved in this investigation. After the initial findings by TPD and the TFD HAZMAT unit, my office evacuated the building.

Thanks to the prompt response by TPD and TFD, a potentially dangerous situation has been dealt with.

"I want to thank the FBI, Homeland Security and the actions of TPD, its South Division and Captain Pat Bunker of TFD and the HAZMAT unit for their work on this matter," Councilmember Fimbres said.

The Ward 5 office reopened on November 30. (Picture from Kold.com)

## November General Election

On Tuesday, November 6, voters went to the polls in Tucson, across Arizona and the nation for the 2012 General Election. For offices ranging from the President of the United States to a local school board, our fellow citizens selected those to serve the nation's interests in public office, for the time being.

Voters also had many ballot propositions, referendums and initiatives to consider for their 2012 election ballot as well, which could affect how citizens lead their lives and government conducts its affairs.

For those registered voters who participated in the process, I want to express my thanks to you for taking part in our democratic process. To those people elected to serve in public office, I want to express my congratulations and thanks for your commitment to serving the good citizens of this state and country.

## City News



### **Tucson Supports Tomato Suspension Agreement**

I brought forward a resolution for Mayor and Council consideration for the City to go on record supporting the Tomato Suspension Agreement. By a unanimous, bipartisan vote, the Tucson Mayor and Council approved the resolution on November 7.

I placed this on the agenda, after the recent visit to Tucson by the Governor of the State of Sinaloa, Mario Lopez Valdez. Discussions between the Governor and the City of Tucson included the Tomato Suspension Agreement and potential economic ramifications if this 16 year old agreement, between the United States and Mexico is terminated.

The U.S. Department of Commerce made its intentions official on October 2 by publishing a notice of intent to terminate the agreement in the Federal Register. The department has nine months before it must make a final decision.

"Mexico's trade with the United States and Arizona is important and if this agreement is terminated, the price of goods, let alone tomatoes could be raised through tariffs," I said during the discussion of the resolution at the November 7 Council meeting.

"The tomato industry is a \$3.5 billion annual business for both countries and is a billion dollar economic business for commerce for Tucson, Southern Arizona and the entire state," I went on to say. "Consumers have depended upon this to ensure that tomatoes are an integral part of their diets."

I stated, "In 2011, Arizona alone imported more than \$6.2 billion in produce and goods from Mexico." "If this agreement is suspended or revoked, it will do harm to the economies on both sides of the border, something neither can afford during these economic times."

"More than 110,000 Arizona jobs are dependent on trade with Mexico," I continued, citing U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Census Bureau information. "It is important that all action be taken to protect these jobs."

Arizona Senators Jon Kyl and John McCain, as well as Congressman Raul Grijalva, Ed Pastor, Ron Barber, Paul Gosar and Ben Quayle have written letters in support of the agreement to the U.S. Department of Commerce. Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild has also written a letter urging the U.S. Department of Commerce to uphold the agreement.

"This is not a partisan issue, but one of economics," I said. "We can't turn our back on the global economy now, too much is at stake and too much could be lost if this agreement isn't continued."

### **Voters Approve Proposition 409**

By a margin of 900 votes, Proposition 409 was approved by Tucson voters. The approval of the bond package will result in \$100 million being spent to repair and resurface City streets over the next five years.

The road work will be carried out entirely by private contractors and begin in the second half of 2013. Residents can expect to see a variety of treatments being applied to City streets as part of the new pavement preservation program.

## City News

This City Council has pledged to ensure that these bond funds are spent for road repair and resurfacing of City streets and that this process will be open and transparent to the citizens of Tucson.

Returning to a regular maintenance program for the City's approximately 1,900 miles of roadways has been a top priority for the Mayor and Council but actions by the Arizona Legislature cutting road funding for cities had hampered this effort.

Despite the actions of the Legislature, this Council worked to find funding for road maintenance, through delegating Council budget surpluses and actions, such as my direction last year, to direct \$585,000 in Highway User Revenue Funds, from a land purchase in Ward 5, for road repair for all city streets. This year, the Mayor and Council directed \$20 million for road maintenance of city streets, which is ongoing and will be finished by the end of the current Fiscal Year (June 2013) and before the General Obligation Road Bond package begins.

In addition to improving driving conditions, the City is confident that restoration of streets will restore pride in the appearance of Tucson and make an excellent first impression on visitors and the investors alike.

The Citizen Bond Oversight Commission application process is now open to any city resident and applicants will be screened on the basis of interest, qualifications, leadership role in the community, stakeholder group and geographical representation. Each of the seven members of the Mayor and Council will make an appointment to the commission and the City Manager will make four selections for a total of 11 members. The Oversight Commission will meet quarterly to review the progress of the bond program and report annually to citizens, ensuring that bond funds are expended in accordance with the direction of the voters. To apply for a position, please send resumes to The City Clerk's Office at [cityclerk@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:cityclerk@tucsonaz.gov) or 255 W. Alameda, Tucson AZ, 85701 no later than December 31, 2012.

## Kino Overpass Update

Groundbreaking has already taken place on the Kino Parkway – 22nd Street Intersection improvement project.

This project will consist of reconstructing the intersection of Kino Parkway and 22nd Street by elevating Kino Parkway over 22nd Street to provide two continuous through lanes of traffic in each direction.

On and off ramps will have one left turn and one right turn lane for drivers wishing to enter and exit Kino Parkway. 22nd Street will be widened to provide three through lanes in each direction, exclusive right turn lanes, and dual left turn lanes. Both roads will have bike lanes and a landscaped center median separating the traffic lanes.

This project will include new asphalt paving, bike lanes, new curbs, six foot wide sidewalks, bus pullout improvements on 22nd street, landscaping, landscape lighting, street lighting, and traffic signalization.

The nearby intersection of 22nd Street and Cherrybell Stravenue will be modified to restrict through traffic and a new traffic signal will also be installed at 18th Street and Park Avenue as part of the overall traffic circulation mitigation plan.

A new detention basin will be developed as part of this project. New storm drains and water modifications will also be made as part of this project.

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## Ward 5 Announcements

### Bike In A Box

Christmas is just a few weeks away, and with today's continued economy struggles and increase in family needs for the less privileged, financial help is needed.

The 4th Annual Bike In A Box event to benefit under-privileged children with a new bicycle and safety helmet will occur on Sunday, December 16. However, in order to purchase the 500 bicycles, the event needs to raise \$25,000.00. Contributions are tax deductible so please consider one on the levels of sponsoring bicycles for this worth cause. Please download the attached contribution form to sponsor a bicycle or other levels of sponsorship listed.

For information about sponsoring this year's event, please visit [www.LugoCharities.com](http://www.LugoCharities.com) All contributions are tax deductible.

### New Intern

Here at Ward 5, we have recently acquired another intern from the Fred G. Acosta Job Corps center. Jeffery Espinosa has been a student at the Tucson Job Corps since October of 2011, and joined our Ward 5 staff four weeks ago.

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## Congratulations and Thank You!



Metropolitan Pima Alliance

### Common Ground Awards

The Valencia Crossing annexation in Ward 5, as well as the Bring Back the Splash Program are both finalists for the Metropolitan Pima Alliance's (MPA) Common Ground Awards.

Other City of Tucson projects and efforts being considered for these awards include the Land Use Code, the UA Baseball Team moving into Hi Corbett Field, the City of Tucson Downtown Gateway Redevelopment Program, the Luis Gutierrez Bridge, the Police Crime Lab and the City of Tucson Blue Moon Community Garden. In its 9th year, MPA's Common Ground recognizes community leaders, projects and events with successful collaboration for the overall benefit of the community. The ceremony will take place November 30 at the Westward Look. For more information, visit <http://mpaaz.org/events/common-ground>. Because of Ward 5 efforts and for our work with the business community, this is the third time this office had been recognized by the MPA.

### Food Boxes

Special thanks to those who helped to put hundreds of food boxes together and deliver them to some of our most needy citizens in our community. Special Thanks to Marian Amoroso-Benedetto, Vikki Marshal, Roger Tamietti, the Tucson Fire Fighters, Jim Watson and all the labor groups who helped to organize this event. Also to Javier Herrera, Mary Fimbres and Linda Leatherman from LULAC, for their part in ensuring folks were helped.

### Thanksgiving in the Barrio

LUZ Southside Coalition held their fourteenth annual Thanksgiving in the Barrio event at the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center on November 20th. This year, the event helped 2,000 struggling families as many continue to struggle during this holiday season. This event was sponsored by Luz Southside Coalition, Luz Social Services, El Pueblo Neighborhood Center and the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona.



### **El Tour de Tucson a Success!**

More than 8,500 cyclists, from Tucson and around the globe, took to Tucson-area roads on Saturday, November 17th in the 30th Annual El Tour de Tucson race with more than 30,000 watching the race along the roadways.

Congratulations to Rich DeBernardis and the staff of the Perimeter Bicycling Association for staging another successful event, raising awareness about cycling as well as delivering an event that brought tourists and tourism dollars to the Old Pueblo.

### **Veteran's Parade**

The 2012 Tucson Veterans Parade took place on Monday, November 12. Thousands of Tucsonans turned out to honor those who currently serve and who have served our country in the armed services.

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Councilmembers Regina Romero, Paul Cunningham, Karin Uhlich and Richard Fimbres were present to participate in the parade.

Riding with Councilmember Fimbres was fellow veteran and Ward 5 resident, Mr. Frank Llanes.

Thank you to the members of Morgan McDermott Post 7 who helped to organize this year's parade.





## Seen and Heard





## Frequently Used Phone Numbers

### **Emergency Services**

Tucson Police Department or Tucson Fire Department  
DIAL 911

### **Permits**

Planning and Development Services Department  
791-5550

### **Housing Assistance**

City of Tucson Community Services Department  
791-4739

### **Tucson Convention Center**

791-4101

### **Code Enforcement & Graffiti Removal**

792-CITY (2489)

### **Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services**

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department  
791-3171

### **Transportation & Street Maintenance**

Tucson Department of Transportation  
791-3154

### **Tucson Water Department**

Billing - 791-3242  
Public Information - 791-4331

### **ParkWise**

791-5071

### **Pima Animal Care**

387-7502



Community Food Bank

**Help those who are in need.  
Give to the Community Food Bank.  
For more information call: 520-622-0525**

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